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ABSTRACT

A survey conducted in the summer of 1974 provided demographic, household, and manpower data regarding all Choctaws living in or near the seven Choctaw communities which comprise the reservation service area in east-central Mississippi. Results of the survey showed that of 2,118 persons in the labor force, 65% were employed, 8% were enrolled in work experience programs, and 27% were unemployed but available for work. Although significant gains had been made in recent years in the education, work skill, and occupational attainment of Choctaws as a result of developmental programs implemented by the tribal government under Federal funding, overall education and skill levels remained low. Almost half of the unemployed, primarily females, had no previous work experience or training. The majority of workers were dependent on jobs with little security, and higher levels of work skills and education were needed for job advancement. Following an introduction, contents of the report are organized as follows: the Choctaw population, the Choctaw family, and the Choctaw labor force. Survey data for 1974 are frequently compared with data obtained in the 1968 survey. A labor force summary and bibliography are included. The appendix contains the results of a survey of 31 households in a Choctaw community in western Tennessee. (Author/RG)

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CHOCTAW MANPOWER AND DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY, 1974

by

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FOREWORD

The collection and analysis of data presented in this report was made possible by the concerted efforts of a great many persons and organizations. Funds for the study were provided by the U.S. Office of Education, Vocational Education Research Program, to the Choctaw tribal government. Mr. Phillip Martin, Tribal Chairman, provided overall direction for the project.

Dr. Choong S. Kim of the University of Tennessee at Martin served as Field Director, training and directing a group of his students as field interviewers. Tribal employees served as guides and interpreters to the field workers. The Employment Assistance and Social Services offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Choctaw Agency and the Indian Health Service cooperated by providing information from their files.

Ms. Barbara G. Spencer served as Principal Researcher, directing the coding and analysis of the data and writing most of the report. Dr. John H. Peterson, Jr., of Mississippi State University acted as Advisor to the study from his experience as Chief Planner for the tribe in 1973 and as director of a previous survey conducted in 1968.

Representatives of some thirteen federal, state and regional agencies assisted in charting the direction for this effort, which was designed to meet their combined data needs for planning programs in manpower training, vocational education, and industrial development for the Choctaws of Mississippi.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Historical Background

The Mississippi Choctaws comprised the largest tribe of Indians inhabiting Mississippi prior to white settlement. Living primarily from agricultural pursuits, the Choctaws quickly adopted many ideas from Europeans (Debo, 1934). One example of this was the establishment of their own school system. The Choctaws are proud of the fact that they never bore arms against the United States but fought for the United States both in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Nevertheless, as settlers demanded more land for settlement, most of the Choctaws, along with other tribes from the Southeast, were forced to relocate in Oklahoma (DeRosier, 1970).

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, as they are legally known, are descendants of those Choctaws who resisted forced removal to Oklahoma under the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek (Peterson, 1970b). Most Choctaws who remained either failed to receive land under the provisions of the treaty or lost possession of land they did receive. Following the Civil War, most subsisted as sharecroppers, small farmers, or agricultural day laborers. This economic base, despite its low level, made possible the development of seven Choctaw communities in rural areas of east central Mississippi, and enabled many who wished to remain in their traditional homeland to resist a second removal effort on the part of the federal government in 1903. When the Choctaw Agency was established by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Philadelphia, Mississippi, in 1918, land purchases in the seven existing Choctaw communities established the current reservation.

The Choctaws sought to maintain their ethnic identity by remaining separate from other ethnic groups and their social, political and religious institutions. As a result, they were isolated from many of the developments that took place in the larger society. Although Choctaw schools were established in 1920, a high school for Choctaw students was not completed until 1964. Prior to this time, few Choctaws attended high school and many dropped out of school even before completing the grades that were available. Handicapped by lack of facility in English and little education, Choctaws were prepared to work only as farmers or common laborers.

The decline of farming and rise of industry in the economy of the area in the 1950's resulted in the loss of agricultural jobs by many Choctaws. Older persons were particularly handicapped in finding new employment by their lack of vocational and English skills. Younger Choctaws who had more education and better English skills were almost totally barred by racial discrimination from working in local industries. This resulted in the development of a trend in the early 1960's toward outmigration of employable Choctaws.

Recent Events

Major events over the past decade have resulted in new opportunities and options for Choctaws who wish to remain in the area. The passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 served to open the doors of local industrial operations to Choctaw workers. Since its announcement in 1970, the shift in federal policy to Indian "self-determination" and reservation development has been a major revitalizing force for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The Choctaw tribal government has implemented a wide range of developmental programs and has achieved tribal control over a number of programs formerly operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Choctaw Agency. Under the federal policy of Indian preference for jobs related to Indian affairs, several qualified Choctaws have been appointed to top administrative positions within the Choctaw Agency and a number of others fill posts in programs operated by the tribal government. Hundreds have been employed in such para-professional service jobs as community health aides, teacher's aides, Head Start workers, nurse's aides, and adult education teachers. An increasing number are filling clerical and skilled positions.

Several manpower and educational programs in operation over the past few years have been directed toward upgrading the educational and occupational levels of the Choctaw labor force. Adult education is available in six of the Choctaw communities and will soon be available in the seventh. Two manpower programs provide counseling, training and work experience for approximately 150 unemployed household heads. Programs in career and vocational education at the junior high and high school levels are now being developed by the tribe and the BIA in response to recognition by Choctaw educators and leaders of the need to inform and prepare Choctaw youth for the world of work (Spencer, 1973).

Extension college courses which are transferable to an institution of higher education are available on the reservation to all interested persons. The recently completed "new careers" program, designed to prepare 30 Choctaws for professional and administrative positions within the tribal government, the BIA and the Indian Health Service, combined work experience and academic coursework related to the trainees' occupational interests. An increasing number of Choctaws are enrolling in residency programs on various college campuses under several grant programs. The major objective of one of the programs is to prepare teachers to return to Choctaw classrooms. Other students are enrolled in various academic areas, including liberal arts, music, psychology and pre-medical and nursing education.

Previous Surveys

Accurate and detailed information regarding the Choctaw population has generally not been available from the United States Censuses as the geographic boundaries used by the Census Bureau have not corresponded to the boundaries of the Choctaw communities. In addition, most of the Census tabulations and cross-tabulations group American Indians with other races under "non-white" or "other race". As a result, governmental agencies working with the Choctaws have had to conduct their own surveys or rely on guesswork.

Surveys of the Choctaw population were made in 1962 and again in 1968. The 1962 survey was conducted by personnel of the Choctaw Agency with the assistance of Dr. Wilfrid C. Bailey (1963; Ridley, 1965) of the University of Georgia. This survey represented approximately 65 percent of the Choctaw population. A survey of the total population was conducted by Dr. John H. Peterson (1970a) of Mississippi State University in 1968. Both the 1962 and 1968 surveys were directed primarily toward gathering information about households and household heads.

The 1974 Survey

The survey reported in this volume was conducted during the summer of 1974 (see Foreword). The 1974 survey elicited information about both households and individuals, thus providing demographic, household, and manpower data regarding all Choctaws living in or near the seven Mississippi Choctaw communities which comprise the reservation service area in east central Mississippi. Persons living off tribal land in nearby rural areas and towns were included as members of the Choctaw communities. Although Choctaws reside in most of Mississippi's 82 counties, most reside in one of the seven Choctaw communities, which span a seven-county area, including Jones, Kemper, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee and Winston Counties. The largest concentration of the population resides in Neshoba County where the Bogue Chitto, Pearl River, and Tucker Communities are located. Non-Indians related by marriage to Choctaws were not included in the survey.¹

Every effort was made to ensure that all Choctaw households and individuals residing in the Choctaw communities were included and that the data were accurate through use of multiple information sources, including tribal and Agency files and records, consultation with knowledgeable persons in each community, personal interviews with household members, and systematic checks by tribal personnel.

Western Tennessee Community

Concurrent with the drop in agricultural employment in Mississippi in the 1950's was a need for and active recruitment of agricultural workers by western Tennessee landowners (Kenaston, 1972). These

¹The only exception was the inclusion of non-Indian family members in computing family size.

events provided the impetus for the migration of several Mississippi Choctaw families to settle as sharecroppers in rural areas outside of Memphis. The resulting community of Choctaws numbered an estimated 200 by 1960, but by 1967 the population had declined to about 99 persons. During the 1960's and early 1970's, many of the Choctaws shifted from sharecropping to industrial employment in or near Memphis and some moved into the Memphis area.

The Choctaws living in western Tennessee have always maintained ties with their kin and tribe in Mississippi and often return to Mississippi for special occasions. Because of their origin with and affiliation to the Mississippi communities, a survey was also made of Choctaw households in western Tennessee. The findings of that survey are reported in the Appendix and are not included in the data on Mississippi Choctaws, with the exception of their inclusion in the section relating to inter-community migration in Chapter 2.

CHAPTER 2

THE CHOCTAW POPULATION

Total Population, 1968-1974

In the six-year period between 1968 and 1974, the Choctaw population increased by 656 persons, an overall gain of 21 percent. The average yearly growth was 109 persons, or 3.5 percent (Table 1). More than half of the increase occurred in the youngest age group, and three-fourths were within the two youngest age groups. Numerical increases took place within all age groups, however, and the basic age structure of the population remained essentially the same (Table 2). These findings suggest that the population has experienced relatively constant birth and death rates and that natural increase has exceeded out-migration.

Table 1
POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX, 1974,
AND CHANGE, 1968-74

Age	1974 Population			Numerical Change 1968-74			Percentage Change 1968-74		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Under 25 ^a	2,341	1,186	1,155	+366	+217	+149	+18.5	+22.4	+14.8
25-34 years	513	238	275	+119	+ 65	+ 54	+30.2	+37.6	+24.4
35-44 years	365	160	205	+ 81	+ 35	+ 46	+28.5	+28.0	+28.9
45-64 years	416	212	204	+ 63	+ 36	+ 27	+17.8	+20.5	+15.3
65 & over	133	59	74	+ 12	+ 2	+ 10	+ 9.9	+ 3.5	+15.6
Age unknown	15	7	8	+ 15	+ 7	+ 8			
Total	3,783	1,862	1,921	+656	+362	+294	+21.0	+24.1	+18.1

Table 2
AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION PERCENTAGES, 1974 AND 1968

Age	1974 Population			1968 Population		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Under 25 ^a	61.9	31.4	30.5	63.2	31.0	32.2
25-34 years	13.6	6.3	7.3	12.6	5.5	7.1
35-44 years	9.6	4.2	5.4	9.1	4.0	5.1
45-64 years	11.0	5.6	5.4	11.3	5.6	5.7
65 & over	3.5	1.6	2.0	3.9	1.8	2.0
Age unknown	.4	.2	.2			
Total	100.0	49.2	50.8	100.0	48.0	52.0

^aThe sex of five children was unknown. For purposes of analysis, two of the five were allocated to the male population and three to the female population.

Further evidence of the stabilization of the population is the apparent lessening of a previous trend of significant out-migration of young males, noted by the 1968 survey.² Table 1 shows the numerical and

²On the other hand, it may indicate an increase in the number of females who are leaving, resulting in a more balanced out-migration by sex (and a more balanced sex ratio among those remaining).

percentage gains of young males and Table 2 shows the slight but significant differences in the overall population structure. Effects of the change are illustrated by the male-female ratio (i.e., the number of males per 100 females) which climbed from 92 in 1968 to 97 in 1974 (Table 3). Although the ratio of males to females drops increasingly with age (until age 45-65), there has been measurable improvement since 1968 among the Under 25 and the 25 to 34 year old age groups.

Table 3
SEX RATIO BY AGE, 1974 and 1968

Age	Sex Ratio ^a	
	1974	1968
Under 25	102.8	96.3
16-19 years	100.6	—
20-24 years	92.2	—
25-34 years	86.5	78.3
35-44 years	78.0	78.6
45-64 years	103.9	99.4
65 & over	79.7	89.1
Total population	97.0	92.2

^aThe number of males per 100 females. Formula for computing sex ratio: $\frac{\text{No. of males}}{\text{No. of females}} \times 100$.

A more detailed age and sex breakdown of the population is displayed in Table 4. There appears to have been either considerable fluctuation in the rate of births over the past 15 years or in the amounts of family out-migration. Compared to the 568 children aged 10 to 14 years in 1974 (who were born between 1964 and 1970), there were only 476 aged 5 through 9 (born between 1965 and 1969) and 503 under five years old (born between 1970 and 1974).

Table 4
POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX AND MEDIAN AGE, 1974

Age	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	503	13.3	264	7.0	239	6.3
5-9 years	476	12.6	239	6.3	237	6.3
10-14 years	568	15.0	298	7.9	270	7.1
15-19 years	466	12.3	227	6.0	239	6.3
20-24 years	321	8.5	154	4.1	167	4.4
25-29 years	285	7.5	133	3.5	152	4.0
30-34 years	228	6.0	105	2.8	123	3.3
35-39 years	215	5.7	107	2.8	108	2.9
40-44 years	150	4.0	53	1.4	97	2.6
45-49 years	132	3.5	65	1.7	67	1.8
50-54 years	129	3.4	59	1.6	70	1.9
55-59 years	87	2.3	53	1.4	34	.9

Table 4 - Continued

Population By Age and Sex and Median Age, 1974

Age	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
60-64 years	68	1.3	35	.9	33	.9
65-69 years	63	1.7	29	.8	34	.9
70-74 years	36	1.0	12	.3	24	.6
75 years & over	34	.9	18	.5	16	.4
Age unknown (under 16) ^a	8	.2	4	.1	4	.1
Age unknown (adults)	14	.4	7	.2	7	.2
Total	3,783	100.0	1,862	49.2	1,921	50.8

Median age: 17.7

^aSex was also unknown for five of the children. For purposes of analysis, two were allocated to the male population and three to the female population.

The Choctaw population is youthful, with over half (53 percent) of its members under 20 and with a median age of 17.7 years (Table 4). Table 5 emphasizes the age structure of the population by contrasting the proportions that fall within three primary age groups - dependent children (children age 14 and under), the active population (age 15 through 64), and the dependent aged (persons 65 and over). Using this breakdown for comparison with other groups, Table 5 shows that the population is characterized by a relatively large proportion of dependent children and an extremely small percentage of aged. The dependency ratio is high, due to the large proportion of dependent children, but is not as high as it would be if the aged comprised a larger proportion of the population. The result is a median age that is lower than that of any other ethnic group in the State for whom information is available.

Table 5

AGE DISTRIBUTION, DEPENDENCY RATIO AND MEDIAN AGE
OF CHOCTAW POPULATION, 1974, AND MISSISSIPPI
AND UNITED STATES POPULATIONS, 1970*

Population	Age Distribution Percentages			
	Dependent Children (14 Years & Under)	Active Population (15-64 years)	Dependent Aged (65 Years & Older)	Dependency Ratio ^a
Miss. Choctaw, 1974	41.2	55.2	3.5	81.0
Median Age: 17.7				
Miss. Total, 1970	31.6	58.4	10.0	71.2
Median Age: 25.1				
Miss. White, 1970	27.1	62.7	10.2	59.5
Median Age: 28.8				
Miss. Negro, 1970	39.2	51.1	9.7	95.7
Median Age: 19.4				
United States Total, 1970	28.5	61.6	9.9	62.3
Median Age: 28.1				

^aNumber of dependent persons in population (persons under 15 and over 65) per 100 active persons in population (persons aged 15 through 64). Formula for computing dependency ratio:

$$\frac{\text{Dependent children} + \text{Dependent aged}}{\text{Active population}} \times 100$$

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, General Population Characteristics, Final Report PC(1)-B26 Mississippi, and Final Report PC(1)-B1 United States Summary.

The relatively small proportion of the population which is aged, as well as the circumscribed numerical and proportionate growth of that segment of the population, suggests that the life expectancy of Choctaws may be lower than the life expectancies of other ethnic groups in Mississippi.

With reference to the birth rate and in the absence of birth data, a useful measure of fertility is the child-woman ratio (i.e., the number of children under five years per 1,000 women in the child bearing ages (15 to 49). Table 6 compares the Choctaw child-woman ratio to those of the United States, Mississippi, and Mississippi whites and blacks. The data demonstrate that the fertility rate of Choctaw women is relatively high, although not the highest in the State.

Table 6

CHILD-WOMAN RATIOS OF THE CHOCTAW POPULATION, 1974,
AND MISSISSIPPI AND UNITED STATES POPULATIONS, 1970*

Population	Child-Woman Ratio ^a
Mississippi Choctaw, 1974	527.8
Mississippi Total, 1970	412.9
Mississippi White, 1970	336.3
Mississippi Negro, 1970	560.1
United States Total, 1970	352.2

^aNumber of children under five years of age per 1,000 women in the child-bearing years (i.e., 15 through 49 years of age). The formula for the child-woman ratio:

$$\frac{\text{No. of children under 5}}{\text{No. of women 15-49 years}} \times 1,000.$$

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, General Population Characteristics, Final Report PC(1)-B26 Mississippi, and Final Report PC(1)-B1 United States Summary.

Population of the Choctaw Communities, 1968-1974

Table 7 reveals that all of the Mississippi Choctaw communities experienced population increases between 1968 and 1974. The largest numerical gain took place in Pearl River where the population increased from 883 in 1968 to 1,183 in 1974. The increase in Pearl River was evenly distributed, in proportion to original size, among all age groups. Thus, it appears (1) that there has been little out-migration from Pearl River or that return-migration and in-migration have matched and exceeded out-migration, and (2) that the increase in population has resulted from a combination of natural increases and in-migration. Movement from the other Choctaw communities to Pearl River is discussed in the following section.

Although the data show that the smallest community, Bogue Homa, experienced the greatest percentage change (81 percent) with a population gain of 58 persons, it appears likely that a portion of this change is attributable to underenumeration within that community by the 1968 survey (Peterson, 1970a). Bogue Chitto increased by 92 persons, Tucker by 74, Conehatta by 47, Standing Pine by 44, and Red Water by 37. The minimal gains among the younger age groups in Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, and Red Water indicate that a larger percentage of young people in those communities are leaving than is true of the remaining communities.

Table 7
POPULATION BY COMMUNITY,
AGE AND SEX, 1974, AND CHANGE, 1968-74

Age	Total	1974 Population		Population Change 1968-74	
		Male	Female	Number	Percent
Bogue Chitto					
Under 25 ^a	498	258	240	+ 39	+ 8.5
25-34 years	119	59	60	+ 22	+ 22.7
35-44 years	71	34	37	+ 16	+ 29.1
45-64 years	107	59	48	+ 19	+ 21.6
65 & over	34	12	22	- 5	- 12.8
Age unknown	1		1	+ 1	
Total	830	422	408	+ 92	+ 12.5
^a The sex of three children was unknown. For purposes of analysis, one person was allocated to the male population and two to the female population.					
Bogue Homa					
Under 25	76	29	47	+ 34	+ 81.0
25-34 years	18	8	10	+ 9	+100.0
35-44 years	16	8	8	+ 10	+ 60.0
45-64 years	15	9	6	+ 3	+ 25.0
65 & over	5	2	3	+ 2	+ 66.7
Total	130	56	74	+ 58	+ 80.6
Conehatta					
Under 25	372	193	179	+ 25	+ 7.2
25-34 years	79	37	42	+ 4	+ 5.3
35-44 years	58	23	35	+ 14	+ 31.8
45-64 years	65	27	38	+ 6	+ 10.2
65 & over	17	7	10	- 2	- 10.5
Total	591	287	304	+ 47	+ 8.6
Pearl River					
Under 25	755	377	378	+182	+ 31.8
25-34 years	152	69	83	+ 39	+ 34.5
35-44 years	115	54	61	+ 31	+ 36.9
45-64 years	123	64	59	+ 41	+ 50.0
65 & over	38	19	19	+ 7	+ 22.6
Total	1,183	583	600	+300	+ 34.0
Red Water					
Under 25 ^a	261	129	132	+ 21	+ 8.8
25-34 years	60	27	33	+ 11	+ 22.4
35-44 years	50	18	32	+ 8	+ 19.0
45-64 years	35	19	16	- 7	- 16.7
65 & over	12	5	7	+ 4	+ 50.0
Total	418	198	220	+ 37	+ 10.8

^aThe sex of two children was unknown. For purposes of analysis, one was allocated to the male population and one to the female population.

Table 7 - Continued

Age	1974 Population			Population Change 1968-74	
	Total	Male	Female	Number	Percent
Standing Pine					
Under 25	182	91	91	+ 27	+ 17.4
25-34 years	36	18	18	+ 8	+ 28.6
35-44 years	27	11	16	+ 4	+ 17.4
45-64 years	24	14	10	+ 4	+ 25.0
65 & over	8	5	3	—	—
Age unknown	1	0	1	+ 1	—
Total	278	139	139	+ 44	+ 18.8
Tucker					
Under 25	198	109	89	+ 39	+ 24.5
25-34 years	49	20	29	+ 26	+113.0
35-44 years	28	12	16	- 2	- 6.7
45-64 years	47	20	27	- 3	- 6.0
65 & over	19	9	10	+ 6	+ 46.2
Age unknown	8	4	4	+ 8	—
Total	349	174	175	+ 74	+ 26.9

Inter-Community Migration

Table 8 displays the residential origin (i.e., community of residence at birth) of all persons living in each of the seven Choctaw communities and the Western Tennessee community. The Western Tennessee community is included in the discussion of inter-community migration because of its close ties with the Mississippi communities (see Chapter 1). The data show that 27 percent of the population has moved from one community to another. Almost half (47 percent) of the movement was made to Pearl River, 9 percent to Bogue Chitto and Western Tennessee, 8 percent each to Conehatta, Standing Pine, and Tucker, 7 percent to Red Water, and 4 percent to Bogue Homa. Approximately one-fourth of all Choctaws living in the eight communities were born in Bogue Chitto. Almost half (43 percent) of Pearl River's population was born elsewhere.

Table 8
COMMUNITY OF RESIDENCE AT BIRTH BY
1974 COMMUNITY OF RESIDENCE

Community of Residence at Birth	1974 Community of Residence							
	Bogue Chitto	Bogue Homa	Cone- hatta	Pearl River	Red Water	Standing Pine	Tucker	Western Tennessee
Bogue Chitto	730	4	11	182	11	4	9	69
Bogue Homa	8	83	8	12	0	0	1	0
Conehatta	6	13	508	80	2	47	12	9
Pearl River	23	2	14	680	15	11	17	6
Red Water	5	0	2	34	346	9	10	0
Standing Pine	9	0	0	19	5	196	4	1
								Total
								1,020
								112
								677
								768
								406
								234

Table 8 - Continued

Community of Residence at Birth	Bogue Chitto	Bogue Homa	Conehatta	Pearl River	Red Water	Standing Pine	Tucker	Western Tennessee	Total
Tucker	13	2	4	44	7	1	260	0	331
Western Tennessee	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	48	54
Other	36	26	44	131	31	10	36	7	321
Total	830	130	591	1,183	422	278	349	140	3,923
Total living in community who were born elsewhere	100	47	83	503	76	82	89	92	1,072

Table 9 shows the inter-community migration of Choctaw households by their 1974 community residence. Again, Pearl River is shown to have been the most frequent recipient of inter-community relocation, with Bogue Chitto, Tucker and Western Tennessee experiencing lesser gains.

Table 9
INTER-COMMUNITY MIGRATION^a OF HOUSEHOLDS
BY COMMUNITY

Community Moved From	Community Moved To								Total
	Bogue Chitto	Bogue Homa	Conehatta	Pearl River	Red Water	Standing Pine	Tucker	Tennessee	
Bogue Chitto	—	0	4	32	1	0	4	17	58
Bogue Homa	0	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Conehatta	5	1	—	18	2	4	7	2	39
Pearl River	11	3	6	—	4	1	13	4	42
Red Water	1	0	3	10	—	3	1	0	18
Standing Pine	1	0	1	9	9	—	3	0	23
Tucker	4	0	3	14	1	0	—	1	23
Western Tennessee	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	—	10
Total	28	4	19	86	17	8	28	24	214

^aIn some cases, inter-community migration figures represent two or three moves by the same households. At least one move had been made by 165 families. At least two moves had been made by 44 families, and three moves had been made by 5 families.

The majority of the households that had moved from one Choctaw community to another cited job-related reasons (58 percent). The other most frequent reasons given were related to family ties (20 percent) and housing (15 percent).

The most obvious explanation of the large flow of residents from the other communities to Pearl River is the political and economic centrality of Pearl River as well as significant events of recent years. The Choctaw tribal government and the only Choctaw high school are located in Pearl River and the Choctaw Agency is located in nearby Philadelphia, Mississippi. The proliferation of developmental and educational programs under tribal management since 1970, discussed in Chapter 1, has resulted in a substantial expansion of jobs available to Choctaws. While a number of jobs are located in the other six communities, the majority are in Pearl River.

Location of Household Residences

Table 10 shows that there has been considerable movement of Choctaw households since 1968 to housing located on tribal land in several of the Choctaw communities. A significant contributing factor has been the formation of a tribal construction company which has implemented a major housing construction program on tribal land in all of the Mississippi communities. Another contributing factor has been the substantial decrease in dependence on tenant farming, which provided housing for sharecroppers. Almost half of the households surveyed in 1962 depended on farming for subsistence, but less than 4 percent reported farming as their primary occupation in 1974 (Table 29).

Table 10

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS RESIDING ON TRIBAL
LAND BY COMMUNITY, 1974 AND 1968, AND CHANGE 1968-74

Community	Number of Households		Percentage on Tribal Land	
	1974	1974	1968	Change 1968-74
Bogue Chitto	161	47.8	20.7	+27.1
Bogue Homa	27	59.3	80.0	- 20.7
Conehatta	129	65.1	46.7	+18.4
Pearl River	224	79.0	60.5	+18.5
Red Water	87	70.1	38.8	+31.3
Standing Pine	54	74.1	33.3	+40.8
Tucker	81	58.0	50.4	+ 8.0
Total - all communities	763	65.8	45.4	+20.4

Out-Migration

Comparison of the 1968 and 1974 data (Table 11) shows that a slightly smaller proportion of Choctaw households surveyed in 1974 were remigrants (i.e., persons who had left the reservation and returned). The number of remigrant households was slightly larger, however, because of the larger number of households residing in the seven communities in 1974. There were 133 remigrant households in 1968 compared to 149 in 1974. Although this finding appears to indicate that few additional households have returned since 1968, it is unlikely that this is true. The finding of an increase in the number of extended households (see Chapter 3) may account for some additional remigrants who are living with their relatives.

Table 11

REMIGRANT^a HOUSEHOLDS RESIDING IN
CHOCTAW COMMUNITIES, BY COMMUNITY,
1974, AND TOTALS, 1974 AND 1968

Present Residence	Total Number of Households	Remigrant Households	
		Number	Percent
Bogue Chitto	161	19	11.8
Bogue Homa	27	10	37.0
Conehatta	129	26	20.2
Pearl River	224	60	26.8
Red Water	87	12	13.8
Standing Pine	54	7	13.0
Tucker	81	15	18.5
Total, 1974	763	149	19.5
Total, 1968	570	133	23.3

^aHouseholds which have returned to one of the Choctaw communities after residing outside.

Table 12 shows that remigrant Choctaws have lived in a number of places both in and out of the state. Other states named most often were Illinois, Texas and Oklahoma.⁴ Most of the moves (78 percent) were job-related. A variety of reasons were cited for returning to the reservation communities (Table 13). Half returned to be near family or "because this is home." Almost a third returned because they had secured jobs in or near their home communities. Small percentages stated that adjustment, economic, or other problems, or that a combination of reasons, motivated their return.

Table 12
FIRST OUTSIDE RESIDENCE OF REMIGRANT^a HOUSEHOLDS

First Outside Residence	Remigrant Households	
	Number	Percent
Cities in Mississippi ^b	37	24.8
Illinois	22	14.8
Texas	22	14.8
Oklahoma	11	7.4
Ohio	5	3.4
Missouri	5	3.4
Alabama	4	2.7
Miscellaneous	42	28.2
Not reported	1	.7
Total	149	100.0

^aHouseholds which have returned to one of the Choctaw communities after residing outside.

^bTowns or cities in proximity to Choctaw communities were not considered points of out-migration.

Table 13
REASONS GIVEN BY REMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS
FOR RETURN TO CHOCTAW COMMUNITIES

Reasons Given	Remigrant Households	
	Number	Percent
Job-related	44	32.8
Family-related	30	22.4
Wanted to come home	26	19.4
Economic problems	8	6.0
Adjustment problems	5	3.7
Combination	7	5.2
Other reasons	14	10.4
Total	134	100.0

⁴Persons living in towns or cities in proximity to the Choctaw communities were included as members of the community and were not considered out-migrants.

CHAPTER 3

THE CHOCTAW FAMILY

Marital Status

Table 14 summarizes the marital status of all persons 16 years of age and over. A more detailed age breakdown indicated that few Choctaws marry in their teens. The data by age showed that only 9 percent of the males and 16 percent of the females between the ages of 16 and 19 had married. Approximately half of all males and females between the ages of 20 and 24 were married. Of those 25 to 34 years old, 16 to 17 percent of both sexes had never married. By age 35 to 44, only 8 percent of the males and 14 percent of the females had never married. The low ratio of males to females between the ages of 24 and 44 may largely explain the single status of a sizeable proportion of females in this age range (Table 3). Only 3 to 4 percent of persons over 45 had never married. Although a slightly larger proportion of males than females were married, more females had been widowed, divorced or separated.

Table 14

MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 16 YEARS AND OVER BY AGE AND SEX, 1974

Marital Status	Percentages by Age and Sex									
	16-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45 & over		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never married	71.4	64.2	16.4	17.1	7.5	13.7	7.7	6.5	30.9	28.6
Married	26.8	32.3	74.4	67.6	80.0	62.9	69.4	55.4	58.0	52.5
Separated	1.5	2.9	4.6	6.9	6.3	9.3	4.8	4.0	4.0	5.4
Divorced	.3	.3	3.8	6.5	4.4	5.4	5.2	5.4	3.1	4.1
Widowed	—	.3	.8	1.8	1.9	8.8	12.9	28.8	4.0	9.4
Total Number of Persons	332	334	238	275	160	205	271	278	1,008 ^a	1,110 ^a

^aFifteen persons (seven males and eight females) whose age was not reported were included in the total figures, but were necessarily excluded from the age breakdown percentages.

Type of Family

A nuclear family is defined as a family consisting of a household head and spouse, or head only, and their own children. A slight variation of this pattern is the stem family, which includes one or more parents of the household head or spouse. An extended family includes, in addition to the nuclear unit, persons related by blood or marriage (e.g., the household head's brother, sister-in-law, nephew, granddaughter, etc.). For the data analysis, stem families were classified as nuclear units (as they were in 1968). Persons of the same sex who were sharing living quarters were classified into a third category — household of unrelated individuals.

The 1968 survey found a smaller percentage of extended families (17 percent) than was found in 1962 (22 percent). Contrary to expectation, the 1974 data showed that the number and proportion of families in the extended pattern has increased rather than decreased since 1968 (Table 15). This was true in all communities except one.

Table 15
HOUSEHOLD TYPE PERCENTAGES BY
COMMUNITY, 1974, AND CHANGE, 1968-74

Community	Nuclear Families ^a		Extended Families		Unrelated Individuals ^b
	1974	Change 1968-74	1974	Change 1968-74	
Bogue Chitto	62.7	-11.8	35.4	+ 9.9	1.8
Bogue Homa	66.7	-19.9	33.3	+19.9	.0
Conehatta	76.7	-13.4	23.3	+13.4	.0
Pearl River	62.9	-23.1	36.2	+22.2	.9
Red Water	73.6	- 3.9	26.4	+ 3.9	.0
Standing Pine	79.6	+ 5.2	20.4	- 5.2	.0
Tucker	75.3	- 5.7	24.7	+ 5.7	.0
Total-all communities	69.0	-13.8	30.3	+13.1	.7

^aAlso includes "stem" families, in which one or more parents of either the household head or spouse were living within a nuclear unit but no other relatives were present.

^bIndividuals of the same sex who share residential quarters.

The extended family is the traditional family form among Choctaws. It seems likely, however, that increased reliance on the extended household between 1968 and 1974, following a period of decreased reliance between 1962 and 1968, is related more to economic than to cultural factors. Despite the reservation housing program, the availability of housing in or near the Choctaw communities has not kept pace with the growth of the population, the inter-community population shifts, and local job opportunities. The decline in tenant farming resulted, for many families, in the loss of housing provided by that system. In addition, high rates of unemployment and low and unstable family income persist (see Chapter 4). The larger size of houses constructed on the reservation in recent years may have contributed as well.

Sex of Household Heads

The percentage of households headed by females increased slightly from 18 percent in 1968 to 21.5 percent in 1974 (Table 16). If the ratio of males to females continues to stabilize in coming years, it is to be expected that the percentage of female household heads will decline. The percentage of Choctaw female heads in 1974 was considerably higher than the average for Mississippi but was lower than the 26 percent that characterized the Mississippi black population in 1970 (Table 17).

Table 16
SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS BY COMMUNITY,
1974, AND CHANGE, 1968-74

Community	Male Heads ^a		Female Heads ^b	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bogue Chitto	134	83.2	27	16.8
Bogue Homa	23	85.2	4	14.8
Conehatta	89	69.0	40	31.0
Pearl River	182	81.3	42	18.8
Red Water	66	75.9	21	24.1
Standing Pine	43	79.6	11	20.4
Tucker	62	76.5	19	23.5
Total-all communities	599	78.5	164	21.5
Percent change 1968-74		- 3.4		+3.4

^aIncludes male heads with or without wives.

^bIncludes only females without husbands. Females who had husbands but identified themselves as the household head were included under male-headed households in keeping with traditional census classification.

Table 17

**SEX OF CHOCTAW HOUSEHOLD HEADS, 1974, AND
MISSISSIPPI WHITE AND BLACK HOUSEHOLD HEADS, 1970***

	1974 Choctaw	Total	P e r c e n t a g e s	
			Mississippi: 1970 White	Negro
Male Heads	78.5	86.6	91.8	74.3
Female Heads	21.5	13.4	8.2	25.7

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, *General Social and Economic Characteristics*, Final Report PC(1)-C26 Mississippi.

Age of Household Heads

The median age of Choctaw household heads declined slightly from 44 in 1968 to 41 in 1974. The change resulted primarily from an increase in the proportion of heads between the ages of 20 and 39 and a decrease in the proportion of heads in their forties (Table 18).

Table 18

**AGE OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS, 1974,
AND CHANGE, 1968-74**

Age Categories	P e r c e n t a g e s		
	1974	1968	Change 1968-74
Under 20 years	.9	.7	+ .2
20-29 years	19.7	16.5	+3.2
30-39 years	27.9	23.3	+4.6
40-44 years	8.5	11.2	- 2.7
45-49 years	8.5	12.5	- 4.0
50-54 years	9.9	8.6	+1.3
55-64 years	12.5	14.6	- 1.9
65-74 years	7.9	8.9	- 1.0
75 or more years	3.4	3.7	- .3
Age unknown	.8	.0	+ .8
Median age	40.9	44.2	- 3.3

Family Size

Choctaw households ranged in size from 1 to 18 persons in 1974. Both the mean and median family size⁵ was five (Table 19). Data regarding family size are not available for 1968, but it seems unlikely that family size is decreasing in view of the increase in the percentage of extended families and the high fertility rate of women in the child-bearing ages.

⁵As used here, family size is synonymous with size of household. All households—nuclear, extended and unrelated individuals—were included in the analysis.

Table 19
SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD BY COMMUNITY, 1974

Community	P e r c e n t a g e s						Mean Size
	Household Size						
	1	2	3-4	5-6	7-9	10 or more	
Bogue Chitto	8.2	10.1	29.6	22.6	19.5	10.0	5.2
Bogue Homa	3.7	14.8	18.5	44.4	14.8	3.7	4.8
Conehatta	10.9	9.3	33.3	24.0	20.9	1.6	4.6
Pearl River	4.0	10.7	29.9	24.1	23.7	7.6	5.3
Red Water	11.5	11.5	26.4	21.8	19.5	9.2	4.9
Standing Pine	1.9	13.0	35.2	25.9	18.5	5.6	5.2
Tucker	12.3	13.6	32.1	22.2	17.3	2.5	4.3
Total-all communities	7.6	11.0	30.3	24.2	20.4	6.5	5.0

Language Spoken in Homes

There has been little, if any, change in language usage in Choctaw households since 1968 (Table 20). Eighty percent of the households surveyed in 1974, compared to 74 percent in 1968, reported that Choctaw was the predominant language in their homes. Exact percentages for usage in 1968 are not available due to a 5 percent segment for whom information was not available. It is clear, however, that use of English in the home has not increased over the six-year period. Only 7 percent reported using English most often both in 1974 and 1968, and 12 percent in 1974, compared to 14 percent in 1968, reported that they used both languages equally.

Table 20
LANGUAGE SPOKEN MOST OFTEN IN HOUSEHOLD
BY COMMUNITY, 1974, AND TOTALS, 1974 AND 1968

Community	Choctaw	P e r c e n t a g e s		
		English	Both ^a	Not Reported
Bogue Chitto	90.7	4.3	4.3	.6
Bogue Homa	63.0	7.4	29.6	.0
Conehatta	86.8	3.9	9.3	.0
Pearl River	71.0	10.7	17.9	.4
Red Water	81.6	6.9	11.5	.0
Standing Pine	90.7	1.9	7.4	.0
Tucker	72.8	11.1	16.0	.0
Total-all communities, 1974	80.3	7.1	12.3	.3
Total-all communities, 1968	74.0	6.7	13.7	5.4

^aApproximately equal use of Choctaw and English.

Vehicles Owned

Almost one-third of the Choctaw households had no family-owned means of transportation (Table 21). This finding was consistent, with only slight variation, for each of the seven communities. Almost half of the families were limited to one vehicle, 17 percent had two, 3 percent had three, and 1 percent had four or more.

Table 21
NUMBER OF VEHICLES OWNED BY HOUSEHOLDS,
BY COMMUNITY AND TOTAL, 1974

Community	None	Percentages by Number Owned			
		1	2	3	4 or more
Bogue Chitto	35.4	47.2	13.7	1.9	1.8
Bogue Homa	29.6	55.6	11.1	3.7	.0
Conehatta	32.6	43.4	17.8	5.4	.8
Pearl River	27.7	50.4	18.8	2.7	.4
Red Water	35.6	43.7	18.4	2.3	.0
Standing Pine	25.9	40.7	24.1	9.3	.0
Tucker	34.6	44.4	17.3	1.2	2.4
Total-all communities	31.7	46.7	17.4	3.3	.9

CHAPTER 4

THE CHOCTAW LABOR FORCE

Educational Attainment

Significant advances have been made by the Choctaw population in level of educational achievement in recent years (Table 22). For the total population, the median years of school completed rose from 6 years in 1968 to 8 years in 1974.

Table 22
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS, 16 AND OVER
BY AGE, 1974, AND MEDIAN GRADE COMPLETED, 1974 AND 1968

Highest Grade Completed	Total	Percentages by Age					
		16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 & over
0-3 yrs.	26.7	2.3	4.7	13.6	32.1	56.3	88.1
4-7 yrs.	20.9	9.9	12.5	20.9	33.4	30.5	6.7
8-11 yrs.	30.3	72.1	34.9	31.8	21.9	5.5	3.0
12 yrs.	13.6	12.7	30.8	19.9	6.0	3.8	.7
13-15 yrs.	5.9	1.1	15.3	10.3	3.3	1.0	.0
16 or more yrs.	1.0	.0	.6	2.5	1.1	.7	.0
Not reported	1.7	2.0	1.2	1.0	2.2	2.2	1.5
Total number of persons	2118 ^a	355	321	513	365	416	133
Median grade completed, 1974	8	9	11	9	6	3	0
Median grade completed, 1968	6	9	9	6	4	2	0

^aFifteen persons whose age was not reported were included in the total figures but were necessarily excluded from the age breakdown percentages.

The greatest overall gain was made by the 25 to 34 year olds whose median grade attainment rose from 6 years in 1968 to 9 years in 1974. Although only one-third of this group had completed high school, 13 percent had continued into college, and 3 percent (13 persons) had one or more college degrees. In 1968, only 13 percent of this age group had completed high school and less than half of one percent (.3 percent) had a baccalaureate degree.

The 20 to 24 year olds, almost half of whom had completed high school, had the highest level of educational attainment (i.e., 11 years) in 1974. Sixteen percent had attended or were attending college. Their educational attainment, as well as the educational attainment of the 16 to 19 year olds, was not complete at the time of the survey as many were still in school.

The impact of adult education programs operating in the Choctaw communities in recent years was evidenced in the two-year gain in grade achievement by persons 35 to 44 years old and in the one-year gain by persons in the 45 to 64 year old group.

Skill Attainment

Classification of persons by skill attainment (Table 23) was based on self-reports regarding education, training, occupational classification and work experience, as well as on local job profiles and U.S. Bureau of the Census classifications. An individual's actual skill attainment level may vary from the level at which he is employed at a given time in his work history.

Table 23
SKILL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS IN LABOR
FORCE BY AGE, SEX AND TOTALS, 1974

Sex and Age	Total	Skill Attainment Level				
		Professional/Administrative	White Collar	Skilled	Semi-Skilled	Unskilled
Males:						
16-24 yrs.	197	0	17	7	81	92
25-34 yrs.	223	5	26	23	76	93
35-44 yrs.	151	3	7	12	51	78
45-64 yrs.	161	3	2	12	46	98
65 and over	5	0	0	0	0	5
Age Unknown	5	0	1	1	2	1
Total Males:						
Number	742	11	53	55	256	367
Percent	100.0	1.5	7.1	7.4	34.5	49.5
Females:						
16-24 yrs	218	1	43	0	92	82
25-34 yrs.	247	8	31	3	113	92
35-44 yrs.	171	1	7	0	69	94
45-64 yrs.	96	0	1	1	39	55
65 and over	1	0	0	0	0	1
Age unknown	6	0	1	0	2	3
Total Females:						
Number	739	10	83	4	315	327
Percent	100.0	1.4	11.2	.5	42.6	44.2
Overall totals:						
Number	1481	21	136	59	571	694
Percent	100.0	1.4	9.2	4.0	38.6	46.9

"Professional" skill attainment implies education beyond the high school, usually terminated by one or more higher education degrees. "Administrative" skills usually imply one or more years of college and administrative experience. "White collar" skills usually presume at least a high school diploma or demonstrated business or clerical skills. Persons in this category may also have one or more years of college. A person classified as "skilled" has acquired, through training or on-the-job experience, one or more of the "craft" skills defined by the Census.⁶

The "semi-skilled" are persons who have worked as service workers, transport operatives, or industrial operatives, and persons who have had minimal training that did not result in the acquisition of a craft or other skill. The semi-skilled usually have less than a high school education. The "unskilled" are persons who have had no training or experience in work tasks that require special training, or are persons that have never been employed. The experience of the unskilled has been limited to work as laborers or farm workers.

If a person reported having higher skills than his present occupation required and those skills were verified by his training, educational, or occupational background, he was credited as having the higher skill level. On the other hand, if a person claimed to have skills which were not confirmed by work experience or

⁶It has been noted that the placement of the "skilled" after "white collar" does not necessarily denote lower socio-economic ranking as

craftsmen and foremen are often viewed as occupying equal or higher strata than...white collar workers... on many relevant socio-economic criteria. With regard to income and power within the organization, craftsmen and foremen rank ahead of the lower-level white-collar occupations. At the same time, the prestige accorded these blue-collar workers is somewhat lower than that accorded the white collar worker (Hall, 1969:204).

educational attainment, he was not classified as having those skills. For example, if a female said she had a typing course in high school, but she had not finished high school and had never held a clerical job, she was classified as semi-skilled rather than white collar. As another example, if a male said he had self-acquired auto mechanic skills but had never held a job as an auto mechanic or completed a formal auto mechanics program, he was classified as semi-skilled rather than skilled.

As the summary of the data shows in Table 23, the bulk of the Choctaw labor force (86 percent) fell into the semi-skilled and unskilled categories. The remaining segment consisted, in large part, of clerical and office workers (9 percent). Only 4 percent qualified as skilled workers and only 1.4 percent as professionals or administrators.

As would be expected, persons having low or no marketable skills run the highest risk of unemployment (Table 24). No persons with established professional and administrative skills were unemployed. In view of the job opportunities on the reservation for skilled Choctaws, the unemployment of 17 percent of the group having white collar and "craft" skills is curious until it is noted that because of the small size of the groups possessing these skills only 18 persons were unemployed. On the other hand, the bulk of the unemployed, and the major problem numerically, are persons who have few or no job skills - the semi-skilled and the unskilled. Thirty percent of the two groups combined were unemployed at the time of the survey.

Table 24

**SKILL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS IN LABOR FORCE
BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, 1974**

Skill Attainment	Total Number of Persons	Employment Status Percentages		
		Employed	In Training	Unemployed
Professional/administrative	21	100.0	.0	.0
White collar	136	88.2	1.5	10.3
Skilled	59	91.5	1.7	6.8
Semi-skilled	571	64.2	9.4	26.2
Unskilled	694	58.3	8.5	33.1
Total-all persons in labor force	1481	65.3	7.8	26.9

Last Job Held by Unemployed

Table 25 shows the last job held by the unemployed and is largely a restatement of the above findings. Almost half of the unemployed (primarily females) had never been employed and another 7 percent had worked only in a training program. Of those who had held jobs, most (81 percent) held either unskilled jobs (e.g., as laborers, farm workers or private household workers) or semi-skilled jobs (e.g., as operatives or service workers).

Table 25
LAST JOB HELD BY UNEMPLOYED IN
LABOR FORCE BY SEX AND TOTAL, 1974

Last Job Held	U n e m p l o y e d					
	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Professional/administrative	4	1.0	3	.8	1	.3
White collar	6	1.5	1	.3	5	1.3
Craftsmen/foremen	2	.5	1	.3	1	.3
Service workers	37	9.3	8	2.0	29	7.3
Operatives, incl. transport	67	16.8	21	5.3	46	11.6
Laborers, non-farm	42	10.6	31	7.8	11	2.8
Farm managers/workers	11	2.8	7	1.8	4	1.0
Private household workers	9	2.3	0	.0	9	2.3
Training program	27	6.8	8	2.0	19	4.8
No previous work experience	190	47.7	25	6.3	165	41.5
No information	3	.8	1	.3	2	.5
Totals	358	100.0	106	26.6	292	73.4

Military Experience

There appears to be a relationship between previous service in the armed forces and high occupational skill attainment for some Choctaw males (Table 26). While only 26 percent of the male population had had tenure in the armed forces, more than half of all males occupying professional, administrative, white collar, and skilled occupations had been in the military. Thirty-one percent of those working in semi-skilled occupations had been in the armed forces, while only 15 percent of those in unskilled occupations had military experience.

Table 26
OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF MALES IN LABOR
FORCE BY SERVICE IN ARMED FORCES

Occupational Classification	Served in Armed Forces			
	YES		NO	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Prof./admin./white collar	26	52.0	24	48.0
Craftsmen/foremen	24	55.8	19	44.2
Service workers/operatives	71	30.9	159	69.1
Laborers/farm workers	36	14.8	207	85.2
Trainees	10	14.3	60	85.7
Unemployed	24	22.6	82	77.4
Total	191	25.7	551	74.3

Occupational Classification

Household Heads and Spouses

Data regarding occupational classification of Choctaws in 1968 are available only for household heads and their spouses. The occupational changes within these groups over the intervening six years are summarized in Tables 27 and 28. Because of recent economic changes in the region and on the reservation, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of persons working in service jobs and a reduction of the

proportion managing farms or working as farm and non-farm laborers.

Table 27

OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS, 1974,
AND CHANGE, 1968-74

Occupational Classification	Household Heads		
	1974		
	Number	Percent	Percentage Change 1968-74
Professional/administrative	29	3.8	+ 2.2
White collar	22	2.9	+ 2.2
Craftsmen/foremen	38	5.0	+ 2.2
Operatives	105	13.9	+ 1.8
Service	106	14.0	+ 9.2
Laborers	129	17.0	- 5.6
Farm managers/workers	32	4.2	- 14.9
Trainees	55	7.3	+ 7.3
Unemployed ^a , retired, disabled	239	31.6	+ 2.7
No information	2	.3	- 7.1
Total	757 ^b	100.0	

^aIncludes both unemployed in the labor force and unemployed not in the labor force.

^bSix households headed by non-Choctaws are not included.

Table 28

OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF SPOUSES OF
HOUSEHOLD HEADS, 1974, AND CHANGE, 1968-74

Occupational Classification	Spouses of Household Heads		
	1974		
	Number	Percent	Percentage Change 1968-74
Professional/administrative	6	1.2	+ 1.0
White collar	26	5.1	+ 4.4
Craftsmen/foremen	2	.4	+ .2
Operatives/laborers	67	13.1	- .6
Service/household workers	104	20.4	+11.1
Farm managers/workers	2	.4	- 4.1
Trainees	14	2.7	+ 2.7
Unemployed ^a , disabled, retired	290	56.8	- 6.0
No information	—	—	- 8.6
Total	511 ^b	100.0	

^aIncludes unemployed in the labor force and unemployed not in the labor force.

^bDoes not include non-Choctaw spouses or Choctaw heads of households who are female.

The slight increases in the proportions employed in professional, administrative, white collar, and skilled jobs become more meaningful when translated into real numbers. There were only 34 household heads and spouses employed in these occupational categories in 1968, compared to 123 in 1974.

Unemployment rates for both household heads and spouses remain high, but these figures include persons who are retired, disabled, and otherwise not available to work, as well as the unemployed who are available to work. The following sections describe the occupational classification of all Choctaws in the labor force and provide a breakdown by community. In each case, the true unemployment rate for each (i.e., the unemployed who are available for work) is included.

Occupational Classification of All Choctaws

Table 29 shows the occupational classification of all Choctaws who were over 16 years of age and in the labor force (i.e., persons who were either employed or who identified themselves as available for work). The occupational category having the largest percentage of workers (19 percent) was that of the service worker. This was the occupation most frequently held by females (almost one in four). Non-farm laborers comprised the second largest occupational group (15 percent) of the total population and the job most frequently held by males (26 percent).

Table 29
OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL PERSONS
IN THE LABOR FORCE,^a BY SEX AND TOTAL, 1974

Occupational Classification	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Professional/technical	14	.9	6	.8	8	1.1
Administrative/managerial	31	2.1	23	3.1	8	1.1
New Careers program ^b	21	1.4	11	1.5	10	1.4
Clerical/misc. white collar	55	3.7	7	.9	48	6.5
Sales workers	3	.2	3	.4	0	.0
Craftsmen/foremen	46	3.1	43	5.8	3	.4
Service workers	286	19.3	107	14.4	179	24.2
Operatives	174	11.7	71	9.6	103	13.9
Transport operatives	54	3.6	52	7.0	2	.3
Laborers, non-farm	222	15.0	194	26.1	28	3.8
Farm managers/laborers	53	3.6	49	6.6	4	.5
Private household workers	8	.5	0	.0	8	1.1
Trainees	116	7.8	70	9.4	46	6.2
Unemployed	398	26.9	106	14.3	292	39.5
Totals	1481	100.0	742	100.0	739	100.0

^aThe "labor force" includes both persons who are employed and persons who are unemployed, but available for work. Not included are persons who are students, disabled, retired or otherwise not available for wage employment.

^bNew Careers trainees, generally, were employed on the white collar skill level.

Fifteen percent of the population was employed as operatives in local industry or as transport operatives (e.g., truck drivers, pulpwood haulers, and school bus drivers). The two categories combined accounted for 17 percent of the jobs held by males and 14 percent of those held by females.

More "white collar" jobs⁷ were held by females than by males, primarily because of a sizeable group of females holding clerical positions. Females had a slight edge over males in professional positions but were outnumbered by males in administrative jobs almost 3 to 1. Only 3 percent of the population, primarily males, were employed as skilled craftsmen or foremen. Only 1 percent of the population, females only, reported being private household workers (primarily baby sitters).

⁷"White collar" in this context includes professional, technical, administrative, clerical and sales positions.

Twenty-seven percent of the labor force was unemployed. An additional eight percent of the population was employed in tribal programs designed to provide training and work experience for the unemployed. The two groups, if combined, designate an unemployment rate of 35 percent.

Occupational Classification by Community

Table 30 shows the distribution of Choctaw workers among the several occupational classifications for each of the Mississippi communities. The segment of the labor force employed in white collar or skilled jobs was highest in Pearl River (18 percent, a total of 86 persons) and lowest in Bogue Chitto (4 percent, 14 persons) and Red Water (5 percent, 8 persons). Bogue Chitto had the highest number and percentage of farm managers and workers (11 percent, 37 persons). Pearl River, Red Water and Tucker had the smallest percentages (11-12 percent) of unskilled workers. Unskilled workers totaled 18 percent in Conehatta, 24 percent in Red Water, and 32 percent in Bogue Homa and Bogue Chitto. Semi-skilled workers comprised 30 to 38 percent of the labor force in all communities except Bogue Homa where the percentage was 21 percent. Unemployment ranged from 24 percent in Red Water, Pearl River, and Tucker to 34 and 35 percent in Standing Pine and Conehatta. Rates for Bogue Chitto and Bogue Homa were 26 percent and 28 percent, respectively.

Table 30
OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PERSONS
IN THE LABOR FORCE^a BY COMMUNITY, 1974

BOGUE CHITTO Occupational Classification	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Professional/technical	1	.3	1	.5	0	.0
Administrative/managerial	3	.9	2	1.0	1	.8
New Careers program	1	.3	1	.5	0	.0
Clerical/misc. white collar	3	.9	0	.0	3	2.3
Craftsmen/foremen	6	1.9	6	3.1	0	.0
Service workers	47	14.5	20	10.5	27	20.3
Operatives	51	15.7	27	14.1	24	18.0
Transport operatives	15	4.6	14	7.3	1	.8
Laborers, non-farm	64	19.8	60	31.4	4	3.0
Farm managers/laborers	37	11.4	33	17.3	4	3.0
Private household workers	1	.3	0	.0	1	.8
Trainees	12	3.7	10	5.2	2	1.5
Unemployed	83	25.6	17	8.9	66	49.6
Totals	324	100.0	191	100.0	133	100.0

BOGUE HOMA						
Clerical/misc. white collar	1	1.9	1	3.2	0	.0
Craftsmen/foremen	4	7.5	4	12.9	0	.0
Service workers	4	7.5	0	.0	4	18.2
Operatives	6	11.3	2	6.5	4	18.2
Transport operatives	1	1.9	1	3.2	0	.0
Laborers, non-farm	16	30.2	13	41.9	3	13.6
Farm managers/laborers	1	1.9	1	3.2	0	.0
Trainees	5	9.4	3	9.7	2	9.1
Unemployed	15	28.3	6	19.4	9	40.9
Totals	53	100.0	31	100.0	22	100.0

Table 30: Continued

CONEHATTA Occupational Classification	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Professional/technical	3	1.3	1	1.0	2	1.6
Administrative/managerial	6	2.6	4	3.8	2	1.6
New Careers program	3	1.3	2	1.9	1	.8
Clerical/misc. white collar	7	3.0	3	2.9	4	3.1
Craftsmen/foremen	4	1.7	4	3.8	0	.0
Service workers	41	17.7	12	11.5	29	22.8
Operatives	25	10.8	9	8.7	16	12.6
Transport operatives	7	3.0	7	6.7	0	.0
Laborers, non-farm	32	13.9	22	21.2	10	7.9
Farm managers/laborers	8	3.5	8	7.7	0	.0
Private household workers	1	0.4	0	.0	1	.8
Trainees	14	6.1	8	7.7	6	4.7
Unemployed	80	34.6	24	23.1	56	44.1
Totals	231	100.0	104	100.0	127	100.0
PEARL RIVER						
Professional/technical	7	1.5	4	1.8	3	1.2
Administrative/managerial	17	3.6	14	6.3	3	1.2
New Careers program	12	2.6	5	2.2	7	2.9
Clerical/misc. white collar	31	6.6	3	1.3	28	11.5
Craftsmen/foremen	19	4.1	17	7.6	2	.8
Service workers	118	25.3	46	20.6	72	29.5
Operatives	41	8.8	13	5.8	28	11.5
Transport operatives	12	2.6	12	5.4	0	.0
Laborers, non-farm	51	10.9	51	22.9	0	.0
Farm managers/laborers	3	.6	3	1.3	0	.0
Private household workers	2	.4	0	.0	2	.8
Trainees	41	8.8	25	11.2	16	6.6
Unemployed	113	24.2	30	13.5	83	34.0
Totals	467	100.0	223	100.0	244	100.0
RED WATER						
Professional/technical	1	.6	0	.0	1	1.1
Administrative/managerial	2	1.2	0	.0	2	2.3
New Careers program	1	.6	1	1.2	0	.0
Clerical/misc. white collar	2	1.2	0	.0	2	2.3
Sales workers	2	1.2	2	2.4	0	.0
Craftsmen/foremen	2	1.2	1	1.2	1	1.1
Service workers	38	22.1	20	23.5	18	20.7
Operatives	17	9.9	4	4.7	13	14.9
Transport operatives	10	5.8	9	10.6	1	1.1
Laborers, non-farm	35	20.3	28	32.9	7	8.0
Farm managers/laborers	3	1.7	3	3.5	0	.0
Private household workers	2	1.2	0	.0	2	2.3
Trainees	16	9.3	8	9.4	8	9.2
Unemployed	41	23.8	9	10.6	32	36.8
Totals	172	100.0	85	100.0	87	100.0

Table 30: Continued

STANDING PINE Occupational Classification	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Professional/technical	2	1.8	0	.0	2	3.4
Administrative/managerial	2	1.8	2	3.9	0	.0
New Careers program	2	1.8	1	2.0	1	1.7
Clerical/misc. white collar	3	2.8	0	.0	3	5.2
Craftsmen/foremen	2	1.8	2	3.9	0	.0
Service workers	19	17.4	6	11.8	13	22.4
Operatives	9	8.3	3	5.9	6	10.3
Transport operatives	5	4.6	5	9.8	0	.0
Laborers, non-farm	12	11.0	8	15.7	4	6.9
Farm managers/laborers	1	0.9	1	2.0	0	.0
Trainees	16	14.7	9	17.6	7	12.1
Unemployed	36	33.0	14	27.5	22	37.9
Totals	109	100.0	51	100.0	58	100.0
TUCKER						
Administrative/managerial	1	0.8	1	1.8	0	.0
New Careers program	2	1.6	1	1.8	1	1.4
Clerical/misc. white collar	8	6.4	0	.0	8	11.6
Sales workers	1	0.8	0	.0	1	1.4
Craftsmen/foremen	9	7.2	9	16.1	0	.0
Service workers	19	15.2	3	5.4	16	23.2
Operatives	25	20.0	13	23.2	12	17.4
Transport operatives	4	3.2	4	7.1	0	.0
Laborers, non-farm	12	9.6	12	21.4	0	.0
Private household workers	2	1.6	0	.0	2	2.9
Trainees	12	9.6	7	12.5	5	7.2
Unemployed	30	24.0	6	10.7	24	34.8
Totals	125	100.0	56	100.0	69	100.0

^aDoes not include persons who are students, retired, disabled, or otherwise not available to work.

Labor Force Participation

The labor force is defined as including all persons who are employed as well as the unemployed who are available to work. Persons who identified themselves as unavailable to work because of retirement, disability, school enrollment, family responsibilities or other personal reasons were not included in the labor force unemployed figures but were defined as non-participants in the labor force. Table 31 compares the participation of Choctaws in the labor force by age and sex with Mississippi total, white and black populations. These data show that participation of Choctaws in the labor force is relatively high for all age groups, except for persons 65 and over.

Table 31
**LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION^a OF CHOCTAW
 POPULATION, 1974, AND MISSISSIPPI TOTAL,
 WHITE, AND BLACK POPULATIONS, BY AGE
 AND SEX, 1970***

Sex and Age	Number in Labor Force Choctaw	Percentage of Age Group in Labor Force			
		1974 Choctaw	Total	Mississippi: 1970 White	Negro
Males:					
16-17 years	25	25.0	22.0	27.6	15.2
18-19 years	42	53.9	50.2	57.0	39.7
20-24 years	130	84.4	77.8	81.1	69.7
25-34 years	223	93.7	92.3	94.3	86.7
35-44 years	151	94.4	91.8	93.7	86.6
45-64 years	161	75.9	79.1	81.5	73.5
65 years & over	5	8.5	23.4	24.4	21.7
Age unknown	5	71.4			
Total Males	742	73.6			
Females:					
16-17 years	36	35.3	11.0	13.2	8.2
18-19 years	45	60.0	32.1	38.3	23.8
20-24 years	137	82.0	49.9	51.7	46.3
25-34 years	247	89.8	49.9	46.7	57.1
35-44 years	171	83.4	53.1	52.0	55.3
45-64 years	96	47.0	44.2	44.1	44.3
65 years & over	1	1.4	9.6	8.9	10.9
Age unknown	6	75.0			
Total Females	739	66.5			

^aLabor force "participation" denotes persons who are in the labor force (i.e., self-identified as employed, or, unemployed but available for work).

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Final Report PC(1)-C26 Mississippi.

The primary reasons given for non-participation in the labor force are shown in Table 32. Almost half of the male non-participants were still in school, while the older non-participant males cited disability (24 percent) and retirement (24 percent). Only 16 percent of the female non-participants cited family responsibilities and an additional 3 percent indicated that they did not care to work. The remaining females were students (27 percent), disabled (29 percent), or retired (24 percent). Available information indicates that the disability responses encompass, in addition to physical disabilities, such problems as lack of language and work skills (particularly for older Choctaws and females) and alcoholism.

Table 32

**REASONS GIVEN FOR NON-PARTICIPATION IN
LABOR FORCE, BY AGE AND SEX, 1974**

Sex and Age	Student	Disabled	Retired	Family Responsibilities	Temp. Off Reservation	Don't Wish To	No Information
Males:							
16-21	114	3	—	—	4	1	—
22-34	10	13	—	—	3	—	—
35-44	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
45-64	—	37	9	—	1	1	2
65+	—	—	54	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total Males:							
Number	124	62	63	—	9	2	2
Percentage	47.3	23.7	24.0	—	3.4	.8	.8
Females:							
16-21	91	3	—	11	—	1	—
22-34	8	8	—	24	—	2	—
35-44	—	17	—	11	—	5	—
45-64	—	76	14	12	—	2	3
65+	—	—	73	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total Females:							
Number	99	104	88	58	—	10	3
Percentage	27.3	28.7	24.3	16.0	—	2.8	.8
Total:							
Number	223	166	151	58	9	12	5
Percent	35.7	26.6	24.2	9.3	1.4	1.9	.8

Average Hourly Wages

Responses regarding hourly wage received were collected for 90 percent of all persons in the occupational categories in which regular wages are paid. Table 33 shows the average hourly wage and the percentage of responses that were collected for each occupational category. Wages on the professional and administrative levels were approximately equal. The next highest wages were received by craftsmen and foremen, followed by transport operatives. Average wages of white collar clerical and sales workers only slightly exceeded those of service workers. Operatives and laborers were found to receive approximately equal wages on the average. The overall average wage for the job categories included in the analysis in Table 33 was \$2.48. This figure does not include the lower wages earned by farm workers and household workers.

Table 33

**AVERAGE HOURLY WAGES BY
OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION, 1974**

Occupational Classification	Average Hourly Wage	Percentage of Responded
Professional/technical	\$ 4.66	93.0
Administrative/managerial	4.57	94.0
White collar/clerical/sales	2.67	91.0
Craftsmen/foremen	3.30	85.0
Service workers	2.41	94.0
Operatives	2.16	91.0
Transport operatives	2.86	83.0
Laborers	2.08	86.0
All occupations ^a	\$ 2.48	89.9

^aDoes not include occupational groups not listed (i.e., farm managers and laborers, private household workers, and trainees).

Labor Force Summary

A manpower survey, conducted in the summer of 1974, found a total of 2,118 persons, 742 males and 739 females, in the Choctaw labor force. At the time of the survey, 65 percent were gainfully employed, 8 percent were enrolled in work experience training programs, and 27 percent were unemployed, but available for work.

Significant gains have been made in recent years in the education, work skill and occupational attainments of Choctaws as a result of numerous developmental programs, implemented by the tribal government under funding by various federal agencies. Despite the progress that has been made, however, the survey showed that the overall education and skill levels of the average Choctaw remain low. The bulk of the labor force (86 percent) has few or no job skills, while only a minority have achieved clerical skills (9 percent), craft skills (4 percent), and professional or administrative qualifications (1.4 percent). Most of the unemployed (95 percent) are either semi-skilled or unskilled. Almost half of the unemployed, primarily females, have had no previous work experience or training. Jobs previously held by the experienced unemployed include service worker or operative (26 percent), unskilled laborer, farm laborer, or private household worker (23 percent), and craftsman, clerical worker, or administrator (3 percent).

Seven geographically-distinct communities, spanning seven counties in east central Mississippi, comprise the Choctaw reservation area. Inter-community migration related to job opportunities is common among the Choctaws. The greatest population shifts have been directed toward Pearl River in Neshoba County, which serves as the seat of the Choctaw tribal government. The Pearl River labor force totals 467 persons, of whom 14 percent are employed as clerical, administrative, and professional workers; 4 percent as skilled craftsmen and foremen; 37 percent as service workers, transport operatives, and operatives; 12 percent as laborers, farm workers, and private household workers; 9 percent as work trainees; and 24 percent are unemployed.

The labor force in the remaining six communities includes 324 persons in Bogue Chitto (199 males, 133 females), 53 persons in Bogue Homa (31 males, 22 females), 231 in Conehatta (104 males, 127 females), 172 in Red Water (85 males, 87 females), 109 in Standing Pine (51 males, 58 females), and 125 in Tucker (56 males and 69 females). Fewer administrative, professional, and clerical jobs are held by Choctaws in these communities. Semi-skilled operatives and service workers comprise 30 to 38 percent of the labor force in five of the six. The sixth, Bogue Homa, has a smaller percentage of semi-skilled workers (21 percent) and a larger percentage of unskilled laborers (30 percent). Unskilled workers (laborers, farm workers and household workers) total 11 to 12 percent in Red Water and Tucker, 18 percent in Conehatta, 24 percent in Red Water, and 32 percent in Bogue Homa and Bogue Chitto. Unemployment ranges from 24 percent in Red Water and Tucker to 34-35 percent in Standing Pine and Conehatta. Rates for Bogue Chitto and Bogue Homa are 26 percent and 28 percent, respectively.

The 1974 survey showed that the majority of Choctaw workers remain heavily dependent on jobs with little security, in that their jobs are based on short-term programs (e.g., service workers employed in short-term developmental programs) or on other contingencies, such as weather conditions (e.g., pulpwood haulers, laborers) and economic conditions (e.g., operatives, laborers).

Jobs on the lower rungs of the occupational ladder require few skills and little experience, causing workers in these categories to be highly expendable and easily replaced. To advance into jobs where skill requirements and job market demand (and thus remuneration and job security) are higher, it will be necessary for more Choctaws to acquire higher levels of work skills and education. Although adult education and manpower training programs are accomplishing small gains in upgrading the literacy and work skills of adult Choctaws, much remains to be accomplished before the tribal goals of self-determination and economic development can be realized.

The greatest hope of the tribe resides in its youth. Choctaw youth and young adults have achieved the highest educational base upon which to build. As Chapter 2 reveals, the Choctaw population is a young and rapidly growing population. A high fertility rate and stabilizing population portend a rapidly expanding labor force. Unless provisions are made to provide employment and training opportunities for the growing population, the tribe will necessarily lose its educated and highly employable youth and its basic problems will not be ameliorated.

APPENDIX

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY IN WESTERN TENNESSEE

1974 Survey

The Population Structure

The survey of Choctaws living in Western Tennessee revealed a total of 140 persons living in 31 households (Table A-1). Of this number, 40 were living in Memphis and the remaining 100 in small rural communities within a 50-mile range of Memphis. As is true of the Mississippi Choctaw population, the Tennessee community may be characterized as youthful. The median age was found to be 16.5 and the dependency ratio (i.e., ratio of the dependent persons to active persons in a population) was 79.5. Both figures closely approximate those of the Mississippi population (Table 5).

Table A-1
POPULATION OF WESTERN TENNESSEE COMMUNITY
BY AGE AND SEX, 1974

Age	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	19	13.6	9	6.4	10	7.1
5 to 9 years	22	15.7	10	7.1	12	8.6
10 to 14 years	21	15.0	8	5.7	13	9.3
15 to 19 years	18	12.9	3	2.1	15	10.7
20 to 24 years	9	6.4	4	2.9	5	3.6
25 to 29 years	17	12.1	7	5.0	10	7.1
30 to 34 years	10	7.1	5	3.6	5	3.6
35 to 39 years	6	4.3	4	2.9	2	1.4
40 to 44 years	7	5.0	4	2.9	3	2.1
45 to 49 years	2	1.4	2	1.4	0	.0
50 to 54 years	7	5.0	3	2.1	4	2.9
55 to 59 years	2	1.4	1	.7	1	.7
Total Number Persons	140	100.0	60	42.8	80	57.1
Median age: 16.5						

While the Mississippi population has an extremely small proportion of dependent aged (persons 65 years and over), the Tennessee population included no persons who were 60 or over. Indeed, there were only 2 persons over 54 and less than 10 persons aged 45 and over. It is obvious that older Choctaws have left the Western Tennessee community, and it appears that many, if not most, have returned to Mississippi to live. Table 9 in Chapter 2 shows that ten families who had lived in Western Tennessee had returned to Mississippi to live. Bogue Chitto has been the primary point of both origin and return. Of the ten families who had returned by 1974, six were residing in Bogue Chitto, three in Pearl River, and one in Conehatta. Six persons residing in Mississippi were born in Tennessee (Table 8).

Differences in the proportion of males to females were more pronounced in the Tennessee community than in Mississippi. Note that within the 15 to 19 age group there were only 3 males to 15 females. The sex ratio (i.e., number of males per 100 females) for the total population was 75 (Table A-2). Caution should be used in interpreting percentages and ratios computed for a small population, but the findings do appear to indicate that young males are leaving the community more often than young females. A possible consequence may be an increase in marriages between Choctaw females and local white males. Three of the families surveyed in 1974 were headed by white males who were married to Choctaw females.

Table A-2

SEX RATIO BY AGE, 1974

Under 25	61.8
15 to 19 years	20.0
20 to 24 years	83.3
25 to 34 years	80.0
35 to 44 years	160.0
Total population	75.0

Family Data

Table A-3 shows that 58 percent of the population 16 years old and over were married. While only three persons less than 20 years old were married, most persons over 24 had married.

Table A-3

MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 16 YEARS OLD
AND OVER, BY AGE AND SEX

	Number of Persons by Age and Sex								Total	
	16 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 & over			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Never married	4	11	4	1	—	—	—	1	8	13
Married	2	5	8	12	5	2	5	3	20	22
Separated/divorced	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	1	2	5
Widowed	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1
Totals	6	16	14	15	6	5	6	5	32	41

Of the 31 households, 68 percent formed nuclear families and 33 percent were extended families. These percentages closely approximate the division of household types that characterizes the Mississippi communities (Table 15). Household size ranged from one to eleven persons, with a mean of five and median of four persons (Table A-4). Five was the mean and median size of Mississippi households.

Table A-4

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD, 1974

Number of Persons in Household	Households	
	Number	Percent
1 person	4	12.9
2 persons	4	12.9
3-4 persons	9	29.1
5-6 persons	6	19.4
7-9 persons	7	22.6
10 or more persons	1	3.2
Total	31	100.0
Mean household size: 4.6		

The respective proportions of male and female household heads in Western Tennessee families (Table A-5) also closely approximate those of the Mississippi communities. The percentage of female heads (19 percent) was slightly lower, however, in spite of the extremely low sex ratios that exist for the younger age groups and the total population.

Table A-5

SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS, 1974

Sex of Household Head	Households	
	Number	Percent
Male heads	25	80.7
Female heads	6	19.3

A larger proportion of the Tennessee families were found to speak English predominantly in their homes (23 percent) or use both languages equally (19 percent) than was true of any or all of the Mississippi communities (Table 20). While 80 percent of the Mississippi families speak predominantly Choctaw, only 58 percent of the Tennessee households reported speaking Choctaw most frequently. This significant difference in language usage is probably attributable to the larger amount of economic and social contact of the Tennessee residents with the larger society, as well as their physical separation from the larger community of Choctaws in Mississippi.

Only 19 percent of the Western Tennessee families (i.e., six) possessed no family-owned transportation, compared to 32 percent in Mississippi. Almost half of the families (48 percent) owned one vehicle, 26 percent owned two, and 6.5 percent (two families) owned three vehicles.

The Labor Force

As in Mississippi, educational attainment of the population was sharply differentiated by age (Table A-6). One-third of all persons aged 35 and over had completed less than four years of school. By contrast, only one person under 25 had less than an eighth-grade education and almost half of the 20-24 year olds had completed high school. A comparable proportion of the same age group in Mississippi had completed high school, but 16 percent had also achieved one or more years beyond high school. It is known from the 1967

study that at least a few of the Tennessee young people have attended college, so it appears that, of those who have, none has returned to live in the Tennessee community.

Table A-6
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS
16 YEARS AND OLDER

Highest Grade Completed	Total	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-59 ^a
0-3 years	18	—	—	1	7	10
4-7 years	15	—	1	9	4	1
8-11 years	21	9	4	7	1	—
12 years	17	4	4	8	1	—
Not reported	2	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	73	13	9	27	13	11

^aThere were no persons over 59 in the community.

With reference to work skill attainment, only 12 percent of the Choctaw labor force in Western Tennessee could be characterized as skilled. Six persons had acquired "craft" skills and three had "white collar" skills. None had attained professional or administrative credentials. The majority (61 percent) had minimal skills, primarily acquired as factory operatives, and a fourth of the population had no marketable skills (i.e., except as farm or non-farm laborers).

As noted earlier, the only occupation of the Choctaw families who first migrated to Western Tennessee in the late 1950's was sharecropping. This was the primary occupation of two-thirds of the families in 1967. Less than a third (29 percent) of all adult males in 1974 indicated that agriculture was their primary occupation (Table A-7). The most common occupation was that of operative, for the total population (28 percent), as well as for females (35 percent). An additional 9 percent were employed as service workers or transport operatives and 6 percent as non-farm laborers.

Table A-7
OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PERSONS,
IN THE LABOR FORCE BY SEX AND TOTAL, 1974

Occupational Classification	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Clerical/misc. white collar	1	1.5	0	.0	1	2.9
Sales workers	1	1.5	0	.0	1	2.9
Craftsmen/foremen	6	9.2	5	16.1	1	2.9
Service workers	5	7.7	4	12.9	1	2.9
Operatives	18	27.7	6	19.4	12	35.3
Transport operatives	1	1.5	1	3.2	0	.0
Laborers, non-farm	4	6.2	3	9.7	1	2.9
Farm managers/laborers	14	21.5	9	29.0	5	14.7
Unemployed ^a	15	23.1	3	9.7	12	35.3
Total	65	100.0	31	100.0	34	100.0

^aDoes not include persons who are students, retired, disabled, or otherwise not available to work.

Nine percent of the Tennessee workers (compared to 3 percent in Mississippi) were employed as skilled craftsmen or foremen. Three percent (compared to 4 percent in Mississippi) had clerical, sales, or other white collar jobs. A relatively larger proportion of the Tennessee workers were holding jobs as operatives, while Mississippi workers were more often employed as service workers, administrators, and professionals.

Twenty-three percent of the Choctaw labor force in Western Tennessee were unemployed but available to work. Most of the unemployed were females. Of the unemployed, one previously had held a clerical job, nine had worked as operatives, and five had no previous work experience. The unemployment rate for the Tennessee workers (23 percent) was only slightly lower than the 27 percent found for the Mississippi population.

Because of the small number of persons employed in clerical, sales, transport operative, and laborer jobs, information regarding the average hourly wages for those jobs cannot be itemized without revealing information about identifiable individuals. Table A-8 gives the average wages for the remaining job categories. An average is also given for all persons for whom information was available (including the occupations that were excluded from itemization), excluding farm managers and workers. Craftsmen averaged \$5.02, a rate higher than the averages for professional and administrative workers in Mississippi. Operatives averaged \$2.57, compared to \$2.16 in Mississippi, and service workers averaged \$2.30, compared to \$2.41 in Mississippi.

Table A-8

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGES BY
OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION, 1974

Occupational Classification	Average Wage	Percentage of Occupational Group Responding
Craftsmen/foremen	\$ 5.02	83.3
Operatives	2.57	94.4
Service workers	2.30	80.0
Total ^a	2.97	65.0

^aIncludes additional responses for a clerical worker, transport operative, and non-farm laborer.

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